

**CER JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2014**

Members Present: Bill Borth, Scott Guptill, Audrey Nelsen, Pablo Obregon, Lynn Peterson, Rachel Skretvedt, Liz VanDerBill

Staff Present: Steve Brisendine, Troy Ciernia, Laura Morales, Becky Sorenson, Jena Tollefson, Jodi Wambeke

Guests Present: Kathryn Haase, Pam Harrington

In the absence of both Eric Banks and Darin Strand, Steve Brisendine opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Steve then talked about the Park Plan Meeting held on October 14. The meeting was well attended with 50 to 60 people in attendance. Steve said he, Brad Bonk and Rob Baumgarn visited SRF yesterday (23rd) to clarify some questions they had after the meeting. The next step is the rough draft of the plan they are in the process of preparing which will, hopefully, be ready by Thanksgiving.

The next CER Board meeting will be a combination November/December meeting and will take place on December 12. Steve will invite SRF to attend this meeting to talk to us about the Park Plan. This will be the last public input session into this plan most likely. SRF will make a presentation to the City Council at their second meeting in January in hopes that the Council will accept the plan soon thereafter.

Audrey Nelsen asked about Miller Park, if it will be added to the Park Plan. Steve responded that yes, there will be mention of Miller Park in this plan along with some of the smaller neighborhood parks. Currently SRF is pretty comfortable with the two regional park systems (Robbins Islan/Swansson Fields) and the four Community Parks that have been discussed (Ramblewood, Rice, Northside & Lincoln. Much of the conversation between staff and SRF assisted them with the amenities and programming at the other neighborhood parks that were not part of the open house process.

Bill Borth asked about the status of the City Auditorium. Steve said the HVAC system is ordered and work will begin once those systems are built. The goal is to open the facility in early to mid January.

Audrey Nelsen asked about the dog park plan and if SRF would be open to adding items to that park. The deliverables that are in the current agreement do not call for that kind of detail at that park but they would be open to assist if the enthusiasts are interested in their services.

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Scott Guptill asked how much detail is in the Park Plan. Steve responded that there is quite a bit for the six parks but not so much for the others at this time. Scott asked about baseball/softball fields, and wondered why there were no fields at the Middle School. Lynn Peterson stated that the original plan when the Middle School was built included quite a few fields and other amenities, which never materialized.

Audrey Nelsen asked what the School is planning for Garfield. Pam Harrington said that no talk has occurred about moving the ALC out of Garfield at this time.

One of the discussions in previous meetings has been the budget (school and city). Steve presented Kathryn Haase from the School financial office to talk about how money is handled between the School and City. She showed a PowerPoint presentation, explaining some of the bookkeeping items that she handles monthly, showing how money moves between School and City. Audrey Nelsen asked that this report be emailed to everyone. Pablo Obregon questioned if there was a simpler process so that the new Director (upon Steve's future retirement) would be easily able to complete these reports. The board will have further discussions about the budget and how to involve the board in the process in the future.

Steve called upon Laura Morales to talk about ABE. Laura is the site coordinator for Willmar with Julie Mischke from the Hutchinson office being the coordinator after Jim Nicholson's retirement. Julie is in Willmar on Wednesdays. Numbers continue steady. ABE has been working with Good Will on employment of students and they have hired numerous participants. The CNA program has 24 on the wait list hoping to be able to start in November. There are approximately 90 students registered for the day classes with about 20 in the evening session. The breakdown is about 40% African, 40% Hispanic and most of the rest Karen, Ethiopian, etc. Students need to be 17 to attend.

The Strategic Plan was the next item for discussion. The School Board has approved the Joint Powers Agreement, Liz VanDerBill stated. The next step for that agreement is for the City Council to address it. That should happen in November.

Page 4 of the Strategic Plan Financial Resources was the next item up for discussion. The points listed are:

- Determine the role of volunteers.

- Actively recruit new program personnel.

- Steve mentioned that Tammy Rudningen would enjoy receiving information on new people that could lead new programming ideas.

- Seek grant dollars.

- Conduct program evaluations.

- Reach out to sponsors for possible revenue enhancements.

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Liz VanDerBill asked if we should have a plan in place of which programs we want to focus on before we recruit program personnel. Rachel Skretvedt said she felt that the Strategic Plan is difficult to focus on because the park plan is not complete. After some discussion, it was decided to table the Strategic Plan and focus on the Park Plan at the December 12 Joint Powers Board Meeting.

It was suggested that the following meeting should be developing what new programs we want to focus on. After some discussion, it was decided to have a longer meeting to facilitate more involved discussions. The meeting is planned for January 23 from 10:30-1 pm. Staff will work on some scenarios to bring back to the board at our December meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be December 12.